

Notes and News.

ENTOMOLOGICAL GLEANINGS FROM ALL QUARTERS OF THE GLOBE.

A SPECIES OF MOLE-CRICKET NEW TO THE UNITED STATES.—During the fall of 1906 a single mole-cricket was sent to me from Darien, Georgia. This specimen proves to be *Scapteriscus vicinus* Sc., and is of especial interest since it is the first record of this species being found in the United States. I learned that these insects had become very prevalent during that summer and that much injury had been done by them to the golf course at Darien.—M. HEBARD.

IN a note in the March number of ENT. NEWS, page 112, Mr. Karl R. Coolidge announces, that the generic name *Pronuba* Riley is preoccupied and he proposes the name *Valentinia* Coolidge to take its place. This name would be very excellent and appropriate except for the fact that it is itself preoccupied by *Valentinia* Walsingham (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., xxxiii, page 200, 1907). Moreover, it has long been known that *Pronuba* was preoccupied (cf. Walsingham Ent. Mo. Mag., 39, page 260, 1903), and the generic name *Tegeticula* Zeller (1873), given to the same species, takes the place of Riley's name. There is plenty of room in the synonymy, but does the mere possession of a copy of Scudder's Nomenclator justify anyone in adding to it by proposing names in groups of which he has no special knowledge.—AUGUST BUSCK.

JOHN B. KISSENGER, of South Bend, Indiana, who, in the interest of science, submitted to the bite of a yellow fever mosquito while in the army in Cuba, and for whose relief a bill has been introduced in Congress, is now, and has been for years, almost helpless.

Kissenger, who volunteered for the experiment, was bitten by mosquitoes carrying yellow fever germs and then treated by the best medical experts in the army. It was supposed he had recovered his health and that as a result of the experiment yellow fever could be guarded against, but he later suffered a breakdown and is now a physical wreck, unable to use his feet and legs. Two others died from inoculation, and in each case the Government has given the widows pensions of \$100 a month. Kissenger's friends say he is entitled to the same amount.—*The Record*.

COLEOPTERA COLLECTING BY GAS-LIGHT.—The excitement of night collecting can only be realized after one has partaken of it, descriptions fall far short of picturing the pleasure it brings or the knowledge gained by one interested in collecting insects.

During the past year Mr. H. B. Kirk, of Harrisburg, and myself have utilized many of our spare evenings and nights in this way, and it has added materially to our knowledge and collection. We start out at dusk

with our light, a gas-lamp borrowed from a bicycle; flashing it on trees and earth and many a nocturnal prowler has been taken that in daylight would have been snugly housed in some inaccessibly dark retreat. These excursions began in April and were carried on until the cool evenings made our trips useless.

Among the trips we made I will mention a few that yielded good results, although most of them brought to light many things new and interesting to us.

On the evening of April 24th while walking through a strip of woodland on the outskirts of the city we found a dog that had met an untimely end. It was alive with Diptera larvae and feeding on these were several species of Carabids and *Silpha surinamensis* Fab., the latter appeared to suck the juices from the larvae, it would take a larva in its jaws for a few moments, drop it and repeat the performance with another; we also took *S. inaequalis* Fab. and *S. surinamensis* Fab., a specimen of *Necrophorus*, Histerids, Dermestids, also *Staphylinus maculosus* Grav., *Creophilus villosus* Grav. and many other Staphylinids, all apparently feeding on the carrion.

On May 12th we found specimens of *Lachnosterna* feeding on a shrub along the park driveway in numbers so great, they resembled in the gas-light small cherry-trees laden with fruit.

June 13th we visited a grove of dead and dying hickory trees, our practice was to throw the light on the trunks of these trees, which revealed this time *Graphisurus fasciatus* DeG., whose modest coat and the fact that it remained motionless in the light made it hard to distinguish from the gray bark; we also took *Cyllene pictus* Dru. and *Neoclytus erythrocephalus* Fab. We found that in all our night collecting when the light was thrown on a tree-trunk, the insects on it would remain motionless until the light was removed, although a slight touch would cause them to drop, so we invariably used a cyanide jar for this latter purpose, touching the insect lightly with the rim of the jar, it would drop into it of its own accord.

On July 6th we visited the same grove of hickory, the night was warm and sultry and the first tree we turned our attention to was swarming with *Saperda discoidea* Fab., there they clung motionless in the cracks of the bark, probably ovipositing as they appeared to be mostly females; we took a quantity of these, the next tree yielded more *S. discoidea*, *Xylotrechus colonus* Fab. in quantity, running up and down like ants; *Neoclytus luscus* Fab. was fairly common and about one-half dozen specimens of *Distenia undata* Oliv. were taken, these trees were also infested with several species of Scolytids and two specimens of the Clerid, *Thaenoclerus sanguineus* Say. fell to our lot. Pulling the loose bark from a dead oak, *Smodicum cucujiforme* Say. was found in large numbers also several specimens of *Eupsalis minuta* Dru.

These insects were found every trip we made here until the eleventh, on this trip our hickory trees were over-run with *Clerus quadrisignatus* Say, we collected a number of them and one lively chap managed to get down between my collar and neck, I can testify that they can bite right smart.

Parandra brunnea Fab. was plentiful and a dying mulberry tree yielded *Elaphidion incertum* Newm. in quantities, we also found this species on hickory and oak.

July 19th we found a partially dead ash tree and secured a goodly number of *Tylonotus bimaculatus* Hald. that were running over the trunk, also *Neoclytus erythrocephalus* from the same tree.

On August 1st we visited an oak tree that in several places the bark had been injured, and from which sap was exuding, several species of Nitidulidae were enjoying themselves thereon, among them were *Ips obtusus* Say, *I. quadriguttatus* Fab. and *I. sanguinolentus* Oliv., a variety of other insects were also enjoying the feast; farther up on the trunk we spied several pairs of *Eburia quadrigeminata* Dru. which we added to our catch.

Many other insects were taken on these trips although the majority were Beetles, a great variety of Tenebrionidae, usually feeding on fungi, Carabids running along the paths in search of prey and several species of *Cymatodera* and other Clerids were halted on their journey by the glare of the light.

To a collector we would recommend this as a profitable means of increasing his collection and many interesting habits would be learned by one working out life histories.

We are indebted to Mr. W. S. Fisher, of Highspire, Pa., for the determination of most of the specimens mentioned in this paper.

ALFRED B. CHAMPLAIN, Harrisburg, Pa.

EVERES COMYNTAS—*amyntula*.—I am working up the distribution and specific identity of the genus *Everes*, but in coming to the American species *comyntas* and *amyntula* I find myself beset with difficulties from lack of material. The whole genus is subject to considerable variation, though within very narrow lines. Our European and Eastern species are subject to much variation, but the variations are quite small and within very restricted limits, yet they are perceptible, and in some cases have important specific bearing. In conjunction with Mr. Tutt and Dr. Chapman I have had to carefully tabulate our European and Eastern forms, and as far as possible the American species also. I notice that the variations of *comyntas* and *amyntula* are progressing very closely along similar lines, as has been the case with our *argiades* and *comyntas*, but they have not proceeded so far. The whole subject is one of considerable interest, especially when worked